

Florida House of Representatives
Representative Holly Benson
District Three

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Health and Families Council, Chair
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Governmental Operations Committee
Growth Management Committee
Health Care Appropriations Committee
Rules and Calendar Committee

For Immediate Release

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COASTAL ENCOUNTERS FESTIVAL SET FOR OCTOBER 15, 2005

NAVARRE (FL) - Join Representative Holly Benson on October 15th at 10:00 am for the opening of the Coastal Encounters Festival at Navarre Nature Walk Park, located along the Santa Rosa Sound at 8543 Navarre Pkwy. The bay and coastal awareness event will feature live animal encounters with the Zoomobile and the Northwest Florida Wildlife Sanctuary.

You can learn about marine critters at the Navarre High School's 4-H marine club touch tank. Environmental education hands-on activities will be provided by local organizations, agencies, and schools. Several displays will focus on various issues such as protecting our area's waterways, coastal habitats, sharks, water safety, disaster preparedness and other local environmental and health concerns. Arts crafts activities will allow children to make a manatee mask, build a seagrass bed, make a sea turtle, make a shark's tooth necklace and more!

Free kayaking will be available, courtesy of Eco-Beach Store on Navarre Beach, and the Navarre Garden Club will hold a "recycling" rummage sale at the western end of the park. Other organizations participating include: Northwest Florida Wildlife Sanctuary, Northwest Florida Water Management District, Santa Rosa County Emergency Management, UF/IFAS Sea Grant and 4-H Extension, NW Florida Aquatic Preserves Office, the Environmental Education and Coordination Team, and the Florida Department of Health.

For more details, contact Chris Verlinde at 623-3868, Romi White at 686-1427, or Sarah Zieman at 595-5550.

WHO: Beaches to Woodlands Tour
WHAT: Coastal Encounters Festival
WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 15th, 10 a.m - 3 p.m.
WHERE: Navarre Park, located at 8543 Navarre Pkwy.
COST: Free admission.
CONTACT: 850-939-2691 or beacheswoodlands@aol.com

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